



# Montgomery County Priorities For the 2006 Legislative Session

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

Protect direct State aid to local governments and State agency pass-through funds that help support delivery of public services and programs in Montgomery County

## **K-12 Education**

- Fully fund the Thornton plan, including the Geographic Cost of Education Index
- Capital request -- statewide public school construction, \$400 million, recognizing that increased constructions costs are impacting all jurisdictions
- Capital request -- Montgomery County public school construction, \$125.2 million
- Support increased funding for after school programs

## **Adult Education**

- Support increased funding for adult literacy and adult ESOL programs
- Support efforts to place in statute a formula for the equitable distribution of adult literacy and adult ESOL funds

## **Higher Education**

- Capital request -- Montgomery College, \$19.9 million
- Restore top per student funding level for public 4-year higher education institutions
- Support initiatives that ensure access to higher education for all students

## **Transportation**

- Support the County Executive's and Council's priority transportation projects, including securing \$5.2 million in State matching funds for development of the Silver Spring Transit Center and

funds necessary to accelerate the start of construction of the Rt. 355/Montrose Parkway interchange

- Support proposals that promote additional investment in highway and transit systems, including those that make progress toward addressing WMATA funding issues

## **Economic Development**

- Support improvements to the 2005 Biotechnology Investment Incentive Act
- Support funding for an integrated nano-biotechnology initiative to help underwrite research, development, and commercialization of nano-bio products and devices
- Support passage of the Stem Cell Research Act
- Capital Request -- Germantown Life Sciences Incubator, \$5 million

## **Housing**

- Support increased funding for the State Rental Assistance Program and affordable housing initiatives
- Support revisions to the Maryland Condominium Act to further the goal of expanding affordable housing opportunities in Montgomery County
- Increase the penalties and enhance enforcement against unlicensed home improvement contractors

## **Environment and Natural Resources**

- Support passage of the Healthy Air Act
- Support strategies to improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including increasing funding for farmland preservation and other agricultural programs



- Support efforts to expedite the repayment of funds diverted from programs that support land preservation initiatives

## Health and Human Services

- Support increased funding for the Infants and Toddlers Program
- Ensure the protection of Medicaid services for all vulnerable populations, including the full restoration of the State-only Medicaid program for certain legal immigrants
- Expand the capacity of waiver programs for developmental disabilities, autism, living at home persons with disabilities, and older adult Medicaid recipients to allow for greater participation

## Public Safety

- Continue to support proposals aimed at gang prevention, intervention and suppression, including expanded prosecutorial authority
- Support an override of the speed camera legislation veto
- Support efforts that increase student driver hour requirements and enable stronger oversight of driver education schools

## Arts and Culture

- Capital Request -- The Music Center at Strathmore, \$550,000
- Capital Request -- Glen Echo Park, \$700,000